Smith (WA) Schiff Walz Schneider Speier Wasserman Schweikert Stefanik Schultz Scott (VA) Stewart Waters, Maxine Scott, Austin Takano Webster (FL) Scott, David Taylor Welch Sensenbrenner Tiberi Wenstrup Titus Serrano Westerman Sessions Torres Williams Wilson (SC) Shea-Porter Trott Sherman Tsongas Wittman Shimkus Vela Womack Shuster Wagner Yarmuth Simpson Walden Yoho Smith (NE) Walker Young (IA) Smith (NJ) Walorski Smith (TX) Walters, Mimi Zeldin

NAYS-169 Graves (GA) Adams Palazzo Aguilar Graves (LA) Pallone Amash Graves (MO) Palmer Green, Gene Babin Panetta. Barragán Hartzler Paulsen Bass Hice, Jody B. Payne Hill Bera Pearce Bergman Holding Perrv Bever Hover Peters Biggs Hudson Peterson Bishop (GA) Hunter Pittenger Bishop (MI) Jackson Lee Poe (TX) Blackburn Jayapal Poliquin Jeffries Blum Price (NC) Jenkins (KS) Bost Raskin Brady (PA) Jenkins (WV) Ratcliffe Brownley (CA) Johnson (OH) Reed Buck Jordan Renacci Budd Joyce (OH) Rice (NY) Burgess Katko Roe (TN) Capuano Keating Kelly (IL) Rogers (AL) Carbajal Cárdenas Khanna Kihuen Rokita. Ros-Lehtinen Carter (GA) Carter (TX) Kilmer Rosen Castor (FL) Kind Rouzer King (NY) Cheney Ruiz Clarke (NY) Kinzinger Rush Clyburn Knight Rutherford Coffman LaHood Ryan (OH) Conaway Lance Sarbanes Connolly Larson (CT) Schakowsky Correa Latta Schrader Costa Lawrence Sewell (AL) Costello (PA) Lawson (FL) Sinema Crist Lee Sires Crowley Lewis (GA) Slaughter Curbelo (FL) Lieu, Ted Smith (MO) Davis, Rodney LoBiondo Smucker DeFazio Loebsack Soto Denham Lofgren Stivers Luján, Ben Ray DeSantis Suozzi DeSaulnier Lynch Swalwell (CA) MacArthur Dingell Tenney Marchant Thompson (CA) Esty (CT) Mast Thompson (PA) Matsui Fitzpatrick Flores McGovern Tipton Turner Foxx McKinley Vargas Fudge McSally Meehan Veasev Gaetz Velázquez Gallagher Mitchell Walberg Gallego Neal Watson Coleman Gomez Noem Gonzalez (TX) Nolan Weber (TX) Woodall Gosar Norcross Gottheimer O'Halleran Yoder

ANSWERED "PRESENT"-3

Ellison Rice (SC) Tonko

Tilec (Se)

NOT VOTING—38		
Boyle, Brendan F. Brady (TX) Bridenstine Clark (MA) Collins (GA) Delaney DesJarlais Diaz-Balart Dunn Garrett Gohmert Gowdy Granger	Grijalva Gutiérrez Hastings Johnson, E. B. Jones Langevin Larsen (WA) Maloney, Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean McNerney Meeks Messer Perlmutter	Pocan Polis Quigley Rohrabacher Roybal-Allard Thompson (MS Thornberry Upton Valadao Visclosky Wilson (FL) Young (AK)

□ 1911

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 607, "yea" on rollcall No. 608, and "yea" on rollcall No. 609.

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS, SHOOTING

(Mr. CUELLAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that we rise today to address the American people.

Yesterday morning, a gunman stormed into a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, a small town of about 400 or 500 individuals, and brutally murdered 26 innocent lives, including at least 12 children, marking the worst shooting in Texas history.

Today we grieve the horrific loss of dozens of innocent people. We pray for the victims' families, who are grasping for answers with broken hearts.

I have spoken personally with Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt, County Commissioner Albert Gamez, and other citizens of that area to assist in any way that we can.

In the coming hours and days, we will learn more about the victims of this tragedy, their names, their faces, their stories, the joy they brought their families and their friends.

We are fully committed to helping Sutherland Springs recover from this senseless tragedy, and we ask every Member of Congress to join us to support this recovery.

To the people of Sutherland Springs, I stand with you, we stand with you, the House of Representatives stands with you, and the people of the United States of America stand with you. May God bless all of you.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, HYDROPOWER POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3441, SAVE LOCAL BUSINESS ACT

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115–391) on the resolution (H. Res. 607) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3043) to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3441) to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 3, 2017, I was un-

avoidably detained attending to representation duties in my district and was not present for rollcall votes 605 and 606.

I would like to have reflected in the RECORD, on rollcall vote 605, I would have voted "yes" on the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017.

On rollcall vote 606, I would have voted "no" on the passage of H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017.

On Friday, November 3, 2017, I was unavoidably detained attending to representation duties and was not present for Roll Call Votes 605 and 606. I ask the record to reflect that had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall 605, I would have voted "yes." (On the Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017).

2. On Rollcall 606, I would have voted "no." (On Passage of H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017).

\Box 1915

EXTENDING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR CENTRAL AMERICANS AND HAITIANS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the lives of over 300,000 legal immigrants are at stake. Central Americans and Haitians, many of whom are my constituents, could be facing deportation if their temporary protected status, known as TPS, were to end. This vital program, signed into law by President George Herbert Walker Bush, has allowed individuals fleeing instability and chaos in their home countries to legally live and work here in the United States.

Reports indicate that the administration is considering eliminating TPS for these populations, a decision that will have negative humanitarian, economic, and national security concerns, and that could undermine U.S. investment in the region.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime supporter of TPS, I urge the administration to continue to extend this program and provide a safe haven for Central Americans and Haitians unable to securely return to their home countries. My heart aches at the thought of massive deportations of good, hardworking people from my hometown.

Mr. Speaker, TPS beneficiaries are important and integral members of our community, and it would be a mistake to turn our backs on them.

DIVERSITY VISAS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we mourn for the lives lost in the act of terrorism in New York last week. But New Yorkers are resilient. Violence will never break their spirit, and in the Northeast corridor, business has continued as usual.

Sadly, there are folks who want to use last week's terrorist attack for their cynical political reasons. They don't want to treat the root causes of extremism, whether based on racial resentment, twisted interpretations of religion, or political ideology. They do want to stoke fear in order to advance an anti-immigrant agenda, and they are trying to blame the Diversity Visa program for the violence.

Americans are smarter than that.

The Diversity Visa program strengthens the Nation by allowing people from places like Africa and the Caribbean to lawfully immigrate to the United States, where they help fill major shortages in the workforce and drive positive changes in their communities. We need them, and they need us.

Let's not sacrifice our national principles because of a trumped up fear of immigrants.

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the world's largest religion continues to be the world's most persecuted religion. Christians are assaulted, murdered, harassed, and their homes and churches increasingly are destroyed.

Recently, in Cairo, while Coptic Christian priest Father Rizkallah was collecting humanitarian aid, he was stabbed to death because he was a Christian

Now persecution has taken a new twist. While Islamic extremism continues its genocide on Christians and other different sects of Islam, government-sponsored persecution is increasing worldwide. According to Open Doors, 9 of the top 10 countries where persecution exists have large Islam populations. But North Korea, the number one offender, is an atheist nation.

Ethnic nationalism is also a major driver of persecution. Weak and/or totalitarian governments use Christians as scapegoats to keep a grip on power.

Religious freedom is mentioned first in our First Amendment because it is the most important of all freedoms. It is a God-given right for all people of all religions. Americans should lead the way in worldwide religious freedom and in denouncing religious persecution of Christians.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Open Doors USA Persecution of Christians Watch List.

OPEN DOORS USA PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS WATCH LIST 2017

1. North Korea

- 2. Somalia
- 3. Afghanistan
- 4. Pakistan
- 5. Sudan
- 6. Syria
- 7. Iraq
- 8. Iran
- 9. Yemen
- 10. Eritrea

REPUBLICAN TAX PROPOSAL IS ANTI-LIFE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against the Republican tax proposal to raise taxes on the middle class. Moreover, congressional Republicans claim to be pro-life, but this tax bill takes a very different track.

Republicans eliminate the tax deduction for medical expenses, which will crush millions of seniors and people with chronic illnesses. This is antilife, not pro-life.

Republicans eliminate credits for adoption of children, including disabled children. This is antilife, not pro-life.

Republicans eliminate incentives for employers to provide childcare assistance to employees. This is antilife, not pro-life.

Oh, yes. Republicans also eliminate the student loan interest deduction, making payments for college more expensive. They threw that in there, too. This is antifamily, antilife, not pro-life for the next generation.

Meanwhile, the six biggest Wall Street banks, as well as big pharmaceutical companies, will have their taxes reduced by billions. Excess is rewarded again as taxes are raised on the middle class. The vast majority of benefits will go to big corporations, pushing more jobs offshore.

Multimillionaires are happily adding up their winnings. Trump, his billionaire buddies, and his heirs are laughing all the way to the bank.

The Republican tax plan is immoral, unfair, and antilife. I urge my colleagues to scrap it. Life matters.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD SYNEK, U.S. NAVY VETERAN AND FOUNDER OF FEED OUR VET-ERANS

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard Synek, a veteran of the United States Navy and founder of Feed Our Vets.

Rich served in the Navy during the 1980s and was serving aboard the USS *Peterson* during combat operations against Libya in 1986.

After his military service, Rich worked for the United States Postal Service, serving as postmaster for several local post offices. During his time as postmaster of the Vernon Center Post Office, Rich encountered a World

War II veteran who could only afford to buy one stamp and food for half the month.

After befriending this veteran, Rich bought him groceries so he and his wife could eat. Shortly after, Feed Our Veterans was formed.

Since 2008, Feed Our Veterans has served over 20,000 veterans and their families, providing over 445,000 pounds of food for those in need.

Our community is grateful to Rich for his service in the Navy, but especially for his continued compassionate service to our fellow veterans.

HUB OF HOPE

(Mr. EVANS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I had the wonderful opportunity to join with a group of civic, business, and community leaders to introduce a new program in the city of Philadelphia called Hub of Hope. The brainchild of SEPTA and Project HOME, Hub of Hope is a new initiative to address homelessness in our city.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than 6,000 people are homeless in the city of Philadelphia, and 15,000 are homeless in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ending homelessness requires a team effort on the city, State, and Federal level. I am committed to doing my part to ensure that people do not have to sleep on the streets and that their personal, physical security, and mental health needs are addressed in a comprehensive manner. I look forward to working with the people of SEPTA and Project HOME on the new Hub of Hope program.

Hub of Hope is another tool in our toolbox to help move our middle neighborhoods forward. With tools like Hub of Hope in our toolbox, I know that, together, we can continue to work to build a stronger Philadelphia, block by block.

MILK IS A CORNERSTONE OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL LUNCH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a cornerstone of a student school lunch: milk.

Milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in the diet of many young Americans, and it provides significant health benefits. But over the past few years, milk consumption has been on the decline in school lunch programs. That is why, together with Representative Joe Courtney, I introduced the School Milk Nutrition Act of 2017.

Our bill would ease unnecessary regulations preventing milk consumption